

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

1. - 7. (Canceled)

8. (New) A method of fabricating or improving an object, comprising the steps of:  
providing a substrate composed of a first metal, the substrate having a working surface forming  
a tool;

depositing a layer of material on the working surface a closed-loop direct-metal deposition  
(DMD) process of the type wherein powder is fed to a laser-induced melt pool to create a deposit having  
a dimension that is optically monitored; and

wherein the layer of material has a very low solubility in the first metal.

9. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the substrate is wrought or cast material.

10. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the substrate forms part of a die cast die, stamping  
die, trim steel, flange steel or die insert.

11. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the working surface, includes a cutting edge, flanging  
surface, die surface, or die insert.

12. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the substrate is aluminum; and  
the layer of material is molybdenum or an alloy thereof.